

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIEST 00016 120812Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 /070 W
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R 111715Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL TRIESTE
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0794

UNCLAS TRIESTE 0016

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJ: CRIME IN THE NORTHEAST

1. SUMMARY. AT CEREMONIES IN TRIESTE AND VENICE MARKING THE OPENING OF THE JUDICIARY YEAR JANUARY 10, REPORTS ON CRIME, ETC., DURING THE PAST JURIDICAL PERIOD (JULY 1, 1976 - JUNE 30, 1977) WERE SOBER STATISTICAL LITANIES ON THE RISE IN CRIME EVEN IN THE RELATIVELY PEACEFUL NORTHEAST. DESPITE THAT INCREASE, HOWEVER, THIS AREA REMAINS GENERALLY FREE OF KIDNAPPING AND OF THE KIND OF POLITICAL TERRORISM, ETC., WHICH HAS SCARRED ROME AND OTHER ITALIAN CITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. IN HIS REPORT TO THE COURT OF APPEALS IN TRIESTE JANUARY 10, ATTORNEY GENERAL CARIGLIA TICKED OFF NUMEROUS STATISTICS TO THE JAMMED HALL OF ASSEMBLED DIGNITARIES DOCUMENTING THE INCREASE IN CRIME IN FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA. MOST STRIKING STATISTIC WAS INCREASE IN TOTAL CRIMES FROM 27,000 TO SOME 30,000 OVER PAST JUDICIARY YEAR OF WHICH ABOUT HALF ARE NOT RESOLVED. SERIOUS PHYSICAL CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS ARE ALSO ON THE INCREASE BUT SEEM BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE. THERE HAVE BEEN NO KIDNAPPINGS HERE (ONE ATTEMPT LAST YEAR).

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3. THE SUMMING UP ON THE SAME DAY IN VENICE UNDERLINED THE INCREASE FROM 97,000 TO 104,000 CRIMES IN THE VENETO IN THE SAME PERIOD. AMONG THE STATISTICS, ROBBERIES FOR EXAMPLE INCREASED FROM 337 TO 527 OF WHICH MORE THAN HALF WERE COMMITTED IN PADOVA AND VERONA. HOMICIDE, ETC., WERE ALSO ON THE RISE.

4. COMMENT. THE NORTHEAST GENERALLY LOOKS UPON ITSELF AS ISLAND OF PEACE IN AN INCREASINGLY TURBULENT ITALY. THE LATEST STATISTICS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY GIVE ALL PAUSE FOR SOME THOUGHT. NEVERTHELESS, CRIMES OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE, HOMICIDE, AND KIDNAPPINGS REMAIN GENERALLY RARE HERE (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PADOVA) BUT MANY WONDER HOW LONG IT CAN LAST. MOST DISTRESSING STATISTIC MAY BE THE NATION-WIDE SHORTAGE OF MAGISTRATES, PROFESSIONAL COURT PERSONNEL, ETC., WHICH ACCOUNTS IN LARGE MEASURE FOR THE LENGTHENING BACK-LOG OF CASES WHICH SWAMPS THE ITALIAN DOCKETS AND LEADS IN MANY CASES TO DECISIONS NOT TO PROSECUTE IN ORDER TO AVOID OVER-LOADING THE SYSTEM EVEN MORE THAN IT IS. MOEN.

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TAGS: PINT, IT
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